

THE RISE

THE RISE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION

THE RISE

Vol. 1, No. 2, October 1960

Dear Colleagues:

With fall programs just getting underway, public schools already are making adult education felt as a force in the political campaign. In Northport, Long Island, the public school adult education program is conducting a series of six information meetings on the November election. Meetings are held in cooperation with local community organizations. State Assembly and Senate candidates will be the principal speakers. In Denver, Colo., KRMA-TV of the Emily Griffith Opportunity School is presenting a fall program entitled, "Facts First." The program is presented by the Opportunity School in cooperation with the Adult Education Council of Denver and the Denver County Council of P-TA. The series began on September 26 with a televised discussion on the subject, "Which Party and Why."

The plan of the Adult Education Association to tie-in thousands of local discussion groups in public school adult education programs, homes, religious congregations, libraries, university and college programs with the TV debates has been reviewed extensively by the Nation's press. Some papers have been skeptical about the possibility of "educating" the citizen who has long been accustomed to go about his voting in the "emotional, by the seat of his pants system." However, even the most pessimistic have commended the effort to move toward increased use of educational processes during the election. The Philadelphia Bulletin, for instance, thinks that "there might be a lot of nonsense tossed into discussions, but at least people of goodwill could get a viewpoint other than their own. It makes sense and deserves a try."

In the midst of thinking about TV shows, political campaigns and other important items comes the important question of how many buffaloes does NAPSAE need. Yes -- that's right -- how many buffaloes. Jack Parker, NAPSAE's Assistant Executive Secretary, was called upon to supply the information and wrote back to Denver that at least five hundred lucky adult educator facsimiles of Buffalo Bills would be on hand at the Buffalo Barbecue to be held in connection with the NAPSAE-AEA Conferences. The time is Friday, October 14, 5:30 p.m. in the Rocky Mountains' Red Rocks Park.

.... and programs that go both ways. The printed program for this year's NAPSAE-AEA Conferences will be the most unique that anyone has yet seen. It will be upside down, backwards, and sideways -- (unless you know the code). NAPSAE members, by picking up the program and starting with their section will read it one way. When the AEA Conference convenes, all you have to do is turn the program upside down and the AEA program will appear right side up. In between is the General Conference Information section - printed sideways and on colored paper - in complete impartiality to both NAPSAE and AEA. It's a pocket-size program but the printing is large and the content is arranged for quick and easy reference.

Requests for NAPSAE's new publication, "Techniques for Teaching Adults," continue to pour in. While most of the subscriptions come from teachers and directors of public school adult education -- not all are from this source. The Chief of Police in the town of Coster Mesa, Calif., ordered two subscriptions.



Pulse would have to have more than 50 pages (the size of the printed conference program) if it were to adequately indicate the rich resources of the conference. Instead, here's just one example: one of the five administrative workshops scheduled for Friday evening, October 14 -- 7:30 to 9:30 -- will be for local directors operating in cities of 100,000 population or less. Appearing on this program will be four distinguished adult educators -- Wilmer Bell, Everett Preston, Thomas Looby, and Lloyd Wolfe. Each man is at present working on a twenty-five minute presentation on such topics as, "How Do You Locate and Use Community Resources," "How Do We Improve Adult Education Through Staff Training Programs," "To What Extent Should Adult Education Be Offering High School Credit Courses and Supervised Correspondence Study," and "The Meaning of Life-Long Learning for Adjustment in Later Years." Tempting? -- We hope so and we sincerely look forward to seeing you in Denver.

Once the NAPSAE Conference is over, directors of adult education can return home and begin putting to work some of the things they have learned about adult education public relations at the Saturday, October 15, P.R. workshop. American Education Week will be just around the corner and the climactic final day of the week, (November 12) has as its theme, "Life-Long Learners -- Stronger Schools." Most directors already have NAPSAE and AEA adult education materials. For those who haven't, it's still possible to secure these basic aids. One of the two adult education aids is "How Adult Education Changes Peoples' Lives." This is a highly readable leaflet and was not written by some stodgy old adult educator. It was prepared by one of NEA's professional writers and is the case history of persons who -- through adult education -- started their own businesses, obtained jobs, or won prizes for creativity. Twenty-five copies of this leaflet are available from NAPSAE for \$1.00. Also available is the adult education poster, "Don't Wait Til Too Late -- Learn Now." Those who've already received this picture will remember it is the picture of a bare -- er, bear, and graphically illustrates the notion that the proper time for adults to take advantage of educational opportunities is right now. The 23" x 17" posters sell at five for \$1.00.

The ultimate compliment! NAPSAE's 1959 adult education poster illustrated the insight that Mr. Isaac Newton received when an apple fell out of a tree and popped him on the head. The caption of the red, white, and black poster was, "Learning Never Ends." The poster has been reprinted extensively by adult schools. (NAPSAE PR services are never copyrighted -- they are available to any adult educator anywhere who can take advantage of them). The most recent reproduction to greet us is on the cover of the adult education catalog of Sacramento City College. May we suggest that any director who wants to reproduce the NAPSAE posters for similar purposes is encouraged to do so. The posters themselves are still very popular and are available from NAPSAE at twelve for \$1.00.

A TV program designed to do more than sell washday detergents has been planned by Catherine Kirkland, Director of Adult Education in Georgia. She will launch a literacy series of 98 half-hour television films to teach reading to those with poor reading skills or none at all. In cooperation with the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, educational TV station WGTV in Athens and the local school officials, the State Department of Education plans to begin the series on October 24. Mrs. Kirkland has said that while the lesson series can be taken by the individual student at home, it is best taken by groups. A state-wide campaign is underway to begin the formation of groups and the recruiting of volunteer group leaders.

New Community programs in adult education which have been announced for the current year include Troy, Ala., Little Rock, Ark., Weber, Utah, and Lancaster, Pa.

Several novel ways of presenting adult education offerings to the public were tried out this year. In Pinellas County, Florida, the adult education brochure was set up in the form of a "timetable." Racks displaying brochures for 9 of the 143 courses offered by the Pinellas County program were placed in the Chambers of Commerce, the Florida State Employment Service Offices, public libraries, and in all major industries. They were also made available to all high school guidance counsellors. In Fresno, Calif., an eight-page tabloid-type newspaper entitled, "Fresno Adult School News," was issued. In addition to offering a complete description of all adult school activities, the "News" was filled with honest-to-goodness news about teachers, programs, and students. NAPSAE's President, Carl Minich, was warmly congratulated by C. Scott Fletcher, President of The Fund for Adult Education, on the Amherst Central Adult School's 1960-61 Brochure entitled, "Planned Programs for Lifelong Learning." Reading more like a snappy pamphlet about adult education than a course catalog, Dr. Minich's brochure programs featured such activities as "Community Leaders Workshop," "The Psychology of Self-Appraisal," "Creative Thinking and Idea Development Workshop," and "Family Field Trips" for those interested in conservation.

Last month we announced that this issue of Pulse would carry highlights of the second UNESCO Conference on Adult Education which met in Montreal for ten days beginning August 21. The Conference President, elected by acclamation by 200 delegates from 51 countries, was Dr. J. Roby Kidd of Toronto, Director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education. (Dr. Kidd was the banquet speaker at NAPSAE's Conference in Buffalo, N.Y., last year.) The dramatic highlight of the conference was the introduction of a Canadian sponsored resolution calling upon all governments to work toward disarmament and release more resources for adult education. The resolution was introduced by Senator Donald Cameron of Alberta, leader of the Canadian delegation. It passed unanimously after some of the most impassioned speech-making heard at any time during the conference. Several delegations, including those of Russia, Afro-Asian, and Latin American countries spoke in support of the resolution as did Paul Sheats, leader of the American delegation. In his official report to the United States Government, your executive secretary, who represented the U.S. public school movement at the conference, summarized the overall achievements as follows: 1) It broadened UNESCO's traditional concept of adult education. 2) It further involved the so-called "advanced" nations in the world-wide problem of illiteracy. 3) It successfully sensitized key UNESCO authorities to adult education and there is reason to believe that this phase of UNESCO's total program may receive increased attention. 4) Adult education cannot help but be extended and enriched as key workers in all parts of the world are daily struggling to reduce the odds that stand in the way of the universal opportunity for continuing education throughout life.

Adult education at the next White House Conference on Aging will be strongly represented by NAPSAE's Carl Minich. The National Education Association has been granted five delegates and all of these have a strong interest in adult education. Among those representing NEA will be NAPSAE's President-Elect, S.E. Hand; Mrs. Henrietta Rabe; the director of the program for the aging in New York State, Wilmer V. Bell, Director of Adult Education in Baltimore; George Anderson, Assistant Secretary of the Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; and Thomas J. McLernon, Consultant in Public School Adult Education for the NEA.

We're going to be hearing a great deal about "technology in the classroom." The development of many new mechanical devices for teaching will be an unusual challenge to school administrators, directors of adult education, and teachers. NEA's Consultant in Public School Adult Education, Thomas J. McLernon, is in daily contact with new developments in this field. Questions regarding new technological developments in education as they relate to adult education can be referred to Mr. McLernon at the NEA's Div. of Ed. Services.

Who's Who in Public School Adult Education. At the annual meeting of the New York State Association of Public School Adult Educators, Harrison Otis and Carl Minich received awards for outstanding service to adult education in New York State. Paul Durrie, who was director of adult education in Des Moines, Iowa, before joining the staff of The Fund for Adult Education, is now the DAE in Stamford, Conn. Glen Burch, well known by many of his friends in public school adult education work, has left The Fund for Adult Education and is now employed in the Extension Division in the University of California. Thomas Van Sant, formerly DAE for Baltimore, Md., a charter member of NAPSAE, and a member of its first Board of Directors, is now employed in New York City as Assistant Superintendent of the Bureau of Community Education. In Oneonta, N.Y., Herbert Dietz is the new DAE. In Council Bluffs, Iowa, Mr. Wallace Miller succeeds Mrs. Erva Huckleberry as DAE. Richard Featherstone, recently resigned as DAE of the Birmingham (Mich.) Public Schools to join the staff of Michigan State University. His successor is Howard L. Malitz. Lois McCarthy has resigned as the Executive Secretary of the AEA's Council of National Organizations. Mrs. McCarthy has accepted a position as field representative of the Girl Scouts with offices in Washington, D.C. George Mann, the leader of the adult education movement in California for many years, is now on temporary assignment with the Adult Education Section of the U.S. Office of Education.

Both Utah and New Jersey proclaimed State-wide observances of Adult Education Week. Utah's was September 11 - 17 and New Jersey's was September 19 - 26. In addition, Indianapolis, Ind., observed Adult Education Week from August 21 - 27. Governor George D. Clyde of Utah, Governor Robert B. Meyer of New Jersey, and Major Charles Boswell of Indianapolis, all issued formal AEW proclamations.

Cordially,

Robert A. Luke
Executive Secretary

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APPLICATION TO
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